

and to populations of internally displaced persons who remain confined in camps, which should be administered by civilian authorities. These people should be allowed to leave the camps as soon as possible so they can start to rebuild their lives.

As soon as possible, the government needs to begin implementing policies for the devolution of power to provincial councils in the north and east as provided for in Sri Lanka's Constitution. This and other steps are needed to demonstrate that all Sri Lankans can live without fear and participate freely in the political process. It must address the longstanding, legitimate grievances of the Tamil population so they can finally enjoy the equal rights and opportunities to which they, like other Sri Lankan citizens, are entitled.

There is also the issue of accountability for violations of the laws of war. The LTTE had a long history of flagrant violations of human rights, including kidnappings, extrajudicial killings, disappearances, and deliberately targeting civilians. The Sri Lankan military engaged in similar crimes. Although the Sri Lankan Government prevented access for journalists to the war zone in order to avoid scrutiny of the military's conduct, video footage was smuggled out. And as the smoke has lifted from the battlefield there are reports that thousands of Tamil civilians who were trapped in the so-called safe zone perished in the last months of the war. There is abundant evidence that they were deliberately targeted with relentless shelling and aerial bombardments, despite repeated appeals by the international community that they be spared. There are also growing fears of retaliatory attacks against those who criticized such tactics.

The recent decision of the United Nations Human Rights Council rejecting calls, including by Navi Pillay, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, for an international investigation of these violations is unfortunate but not surprising. Several of the Council's members routinely arbitrarily imprison and torture political opponents in their own countries. The Sri Lankan Government, which seeks international aid to rebuild, insists that what occurred there is an "internal" matter and that for outsiders to call for an independent investigation and justice for the victims is an "infringement of sovereignty." To the contrary, the denial of basic rights and freedoms is a legitimate concern of people everywhere, whenever it occurs.

It is now incumbent on the Sri Lankan authorities to demonstrate that the rule of law is respected, that sweeping security measures that have been used to silence journalists, doctors, lawyers and other citizens who have criticized government policies are revised or repealed, that the government takes seriously its duty to defend the rights of all Sri Lankans irrespective of religious affiliation or eth-

nicity, and that those responsible for crimes against humanity or other violations of human rights are held accountable.

Thankfully, a long, bloody chapter of Sri Lanka's history has ended. But it is the next chapter that will determine whether justice and lasting peace can be achieved. If the Sri Lankan Government seizes this opportunity to unite the Sri Lankan people in support of an inclusive effort to address the causes of the conflict, the United States will be a strong partner in that effort.

#### HONORING AMERICA'S WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, this week, we pay tribute to those who fought for freedom's cause during World War II. Two monumental efforts occurred that resulted in turning the war efforts in favor of the Allied Forces. These events are D-day and the Battle of Midway. Each was a demonstration of our nation's commitment to freedom, a blow against tyranny, and the tremendous sacrifice everyday Americans are willing to make for peace and security.

This Saturday marks the 65th anniversary of D-day, the day the tide began to turn against totalitarianism in World War II. On that day, Allied troops stormed a Normandy beachhead to claim a foothold on the edge of Nazi-occupied Europe. More than 1,400 Americans sacrificed their lives during the invasion, including 130 Floridians.

As the largest land, air, and sea invasion in history, D-day brought together Allied forces and unprecedented military resources, including more than 150,000 servicemen, 13,000 aircraft, and 5,000 ships. By the day's end, more than 9,000 Allied warriors had sacrificed life and limb so that others could begin the perilous journey into Europe to defeat the forces commanded by Adolf Hitler.

D-day tested the courage and character of every American involved in the invasion. Like those who came before them, the soldiers who fought that day fought courageously for a freedom the men and women of our military still fight to defend.

Coinciding with the anniversary D-day is the 67th anniversary of the Battle of Midway, another turning point in the war. The battle claimed the lives of more than 300 Americans and helped to slow Japan's advance across the Pacific. America's forces executed the mission with tremendous skill and helped deliver one of the war's most decisive and crucial victories.

On these anniversaries, let us remember and recognize the courage of those who sacrificed their lives to restore hope through the liberation of those in occupied territories. Let us honor and thank those veterans that continue to share their unique stories from these extraordinary battles. May God bless the men and women of the U.S. military, and continue to bless our great Nation.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### COMMENDING MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, before I became a member of this body, I was privileged to serve as the president of University of Tennessee and as Secretary of Education under President George H.W. Bush. Therefore, I know how important it is for our nonprofits to make investments in our system of higher education. That is why I am pleased to report that Meharry Medical College in Nashville is poised to receive the single largest endowment gift in the college's 130-year history.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the largest philanthropic organization in America devoted exclusively to health care, has selected Meharry to receive a multimillion-dollar endowment and other funding to establish the Robert Wood Johnson Center for Health Policy at Meharry Medical College to produce our country's next generation of health care policy experts. Meharry will be partnering with Vanderbilt University College of Arts and Science on this project.

This gift is especially timely as the Nation grapples with economic challenges and millions of uninsured citizens amid growing bipartisan support for reforming the U.S. health care system. The new center aims to serve as a think tank for the pressing health care issues of the day; to increase the diversity of health policy scholars with doctors who are formally trained in sociology and economics; and to provide students and faculty with new curricula, research and academic offerings in health policy. The center seeks to reshape the future of America's health policies by creating a more inclusive pool of experts trained in health policy and allied disciplines.

Meharry Medical College is the Nation's largest private, independent, historically Black academic health center. It produces over 20 percent of the Nation's African-American physicians and 33 percent of the Nation's African-American dentists. These health professionals take care of those most in need: the underserved in our rural and urban communities across the country.

I know Meharry is pleased to be selected to receive this gift and produce scholars who will make a real impact on our health policy at this critical time. Though their graduates may serve the country, we Tennesseans are especially proud of Meharry and its many contributions to our State and the Nation.●

##### COMMENDING KATHLEEN L. "KATIE" WOLF

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today I wish to honor my fellow Hoosier, Kathleen L. "Katie" Wolf. Today we recognize the many accomplishments of Katie, a distinguished public servant and a model citizen who over the years